GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:107
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
PATENTING OF SEEDS
Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Multinational Companies are misleading the poor farmers by patenting the indigenous seeds in the name of Genetically Modified Seeds;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government against such companies;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps for the scientific study and development of the indigenous seeds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 107 DUE FOR REPLY ON 20TH AUGUST, 2007.

(a) & (b): Bt. cotton is the only genetically modified crop approved for commercial cultivation in the country by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee of the Ministry of Environment & Forests constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. All the Bt. cotton hybrids have been developed by private seed companies from Indian cultivars using genetically modified seeds procured from Monsanto of USA, Biotechnology Transgenes China Corporation and IIT Kharagpur. Seeds are not patentable under Section 3 (j) of the Patents Act, 1970 as amended in 2002. However, the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers` Rights Act, 2001 has been enacted and operationalized for protection of the rights of farmers, plant breeders, researchers and local communities.

(c) & (d): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has sanctioned a project for development of Transgenics to increase yield and quality of different crops. The National Agriculture Research System is continuously engaged in development of new and improved varieties of crops.